

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 2, 12-26, 28, 39-55 and 57 without prejudice and amend claims 1, 7, 8, 27, 33, 34 and 56 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A channel decision method in a radio communication system adapted to decide a channel to be employed for communication out of a plurality of radio frequency channels, and to cause communication to be made between one radio station and the other radio station, said channel decision method comprising:

a first step of making decision of said channel at a certain timing in said one radio station, said timing being based on a predetermined constant period or a variable period, and said timing being independent of a detection of interference; and

a second step of notifying information relating to this decided channel to said other radio station.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Original) The channel decision method according to claim 1, wherein decision of said channel is adapted to be made at random from among a plurality of the channels.

4. (Original) The channel decision method according to claim 1, said channel decision method further comprising a third step of acquiring information indicating each communication quality of said plurality of said channels to store it; and

decision of the channel in said first step is adapted to be made based on said quality.

5. (Original) The channel decision method according to claim 1, said channel decision method further comprising a third step of storing information indicating each communication quality of said plurality of said channels, and information indicating an acquisition time of each quality thereof; and

decision of the channel in said first step is adapted to be made based on at least one of each quality of said plurality of said channels, and this acquisition time of quality information.

6. (Original) The channel decision method according to claim 1, wherein the channel having less interference is decided in said first step.

7. (Currently Amended) The channel decision method according to claim 5, wherein the channel having the oldest acquisition time of ~~this~~ the stored quality information is decided in said first step.

8. (Currently Amended) The channel decision method according to claim 5, said channel decision method characterized in that, out of the channels of which said quality is superior to a predetermined threshold, the channel having the oldest acquisition time of ~~this~~ the stored quality information is decided in said first step.

9. (Original) The channel decision method according to 5, said channel decision method characterized in further including a fourth step of, whenever said first step is completed, updating at least one of said quality and said acquisition time.

10. (Original) The channel decision method according to claim 4, wherein quality of all channels to be stored in said third step is initialized to a value between a value indicating a state of the most excellent quality and a value indicating an allowable limit of quality.

11. (Original) The channel decision method according to claim 5, wherein quality of all channels to be stored in said third step is initialized to a value between a value indicating a state of the most excellent quality and a value indicating an allowable limit of quality.

Claims 12-26 (Cancelled).

27. (Currently Amended) A radio station for deciding a channel to be employed for communication with the other radio station out of a plurality of radio frequency channels, said radio station comprising:

channel decision means for making decision of said channel at a certain timing, said timing being based on a predetermined constant period or a variable period, and said timing being independent of a detection of interference; and

means for notifying information relating to this decided channel to said other radio station.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Original) The radio station according to claim 27, wherein said channel decision means is adapted to make decision of said channel at random from among a plurality of the channels.

30. (Original) The radio station according to claim 27, said radio station further comprising a storage for acquiring information indicating each communication quality of said plurality of said channels to store it; and

said channel decision means is adapted to make decision of said channel based on said quality.

31. (Original) The radio station according to claim 27, said radio station further comprising a storage for storing information indicating each communication quality of said plurality of said channels, and information indicating an acquisition time of each quality thereof; and

said channel decision means is adapted to make decision of said channel based on at least one of each quality of said plurality of said channels, and the acquisition time of this quality information.

32. (Original) The radio station according to claim 27, wherein said channel decision means decides the channel having less interference.

33. (Currently Amended) The radio station according to claim 31, said radio station characterized in that said channel decision means decides the channel having the oldest acquisition time of ~~this~~ the stored quality information.

34. (Currently Amended) The radio station according to claim 31, said radio station characterized in that, out of the channels of which said quality is superior to a predetermined threshold, said channel decision means decides the channel having the oldest acquisition time of ~~this~~ the stored quality information.

35. (Original) The radio station according to claim 30, said radio station further comprising updating means for, whenever decision of the channel is completed by said channel decision means, updating a quality.

36. (Previously Presented) The radio station according to claim 31, said radio station further comprising updating means for, whenever decision of the channel

is completed by said channel decision means, updating at least one of a quality and a acquisition time.

37. (Original) The radio station according to claim 30, wherein quality of all channels to be stored in said storage means is initialized to a value between a value indicating a state of the most excellent quality and a value indicating an allowable limit of quality.

38. (Original) The radio station according to claim 31, wherein quality of all channels to be stored in said storage means is initialized to a value between a value indicating a state of the most excellent quality and a value indicating an allowable limit of quality.

Claims 39-55. (Cancelled).

56. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium storing a program for causing a computer to execute an operation of a radio station adapted to decide a channel to be employed for communicating with the other radio station from among a plurality of radio frequency channels, said program comprising the steps of:

making decision of said channel at a certain timing, said timing being based on a predetermined constant period or a variable period, and said timing being independent of a detection of interference; and

notifying information relating to this decided channel to said other radio station.

57. (Cancelled)